

PLATFORM-INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTED USER INTERFACE CLIENT ARCHITECTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A distributed user interface (UI) system includes a client device configured to
render a UI for a server-based application. The client device communicates with a UI
server over a network such as the Internet. The UI server performs formatting for the
UI, which preferably utilizes a number of native UI controls that are available locally
at the client device. In this manner, the client device need only be responsible for the
10 actual rendering of the UI. The source data items are downloaded from the UI server
to the client device when necessary, and the client device populates the UI with the
downloaded source data items. The client device employs a cache to store the source
data items locally for easy retrieval.